

# **FACT SHEET**

## **American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Superfund Site Caney, Kansas**



**June 1999**

### **Introduction**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 continues to oversee activities at the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting (AZLS) site in Caney, Kansas.

On March 26, 1999, EPA signed an Action Memorandum and an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting site in Caney, Kansas. The AOC is an agreement by the potentially responsible party, Blue Tee Corp., to conduct the cleanup. The Action Memorandum documents the decision to conduct a clean-up action at this site. The clean-up activity is scheduled to start this summer.

### **Site Background**

Smelting activities were conducted on the AZLS site in the early 1900s. These activities contaminated the soil with lead, zinc and cadmium. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment sampled the site in 1990 and 1991 and found elevated levels of heavy metals in the soil. EPA investigated the site in May 1995. The investigation confirmed elevated levels of lead, zinc and cadmium in the soil from the AZLS facility.

EPA and Blue Tee Corp., signed an Administrative Order on Consent to conduct an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The EE/CA evaluated alternative methods for a cleanup action and the costs of those methods.

### **Cleanup Action**

The selected cleanup action for the AZLS site is to excavate and stockpile the contaminated waste, soil, and debris on a five-acre plot north of the Caney Valley High School building. This stockpile will be covered with a thick layer of clay or synthetic membranes (thick plastic liners) to effectively reduce precipitation from contacting the waste. A soil layer will be placed on top of the clay layer or liner and seeded with grass.

A vertical clay wall or groundwater barrier will be constructed to prevent groundwater from contacting the stockpile. In addition, a leachate collection trench will be installed to collect any leachate generated from the stockpile. Leachate can be generated when water comes into contact

with the waste materials. Some of the contaminants can then dissolve into the water creating leachate. This leachate can then migrate into nearby streams if it is not collected. The leachate collection trench is a trench filled with gravel which will allow leachate to collect rather than migrate elsewhere. The leachate is then pumped from the trench and treated to remove the dissolved contaminants, if present.

Blue Tee Corp. has hired an engineering firm to design the stockpile and its components. EPA has reviewed and approved the stockpile design, so construction can begin. Most of the construction work will take place during the summer of 1999 to minimize disruption to the high school.

### **Additional Information**

EPA encourages the community to review the Action Memorandum and the AOC. Both documents will be placed in the site information repositories at the Caney City Library, 4<sup>th</sup> and Hooker Street, and the Caney City Hall, 211 West 5th.

If you have questions about this fact sheet or the site, please contact:

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